

councillor's daughter, wound up with congratulations to Gascon, whose fide he had been attentively studying, his excellency took his leave.
(To be continued.)

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., DECEMBER 20, 1858.
INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE.

REVIEW OF THE ACTS AND MEASURES OF THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

It is difficult, under the passing depression of the mercantile affairs of the Island, to recognize all the advantages which are derived by our Island from the Treaty of Reciprocity with the United States; but whatever they are and have been, we are indebted for their completion to its Liberal party. Probably in no other part of the North American Colonies are these advantages more conspicuously displayed. Our fish, our agricultural produce, our horses and cattle, in fact, all the products of our soil and of our industry, find now ready sale, without being burdened by duties. Until the present depression, this advantage was sensibly felt and greatly increased, as it will again in our prosperity. Now it so happens that none of the same things are wanted by us to be imported, if we may except the occasional demand for flour, so that the Treaty is altogether in favour of ourselves; for let it be observed that the manufactured goods and West India produce which we get from our neighbours, all pay duties, so that we derive a two-fold advantage—our revenue is augmented, and the market for what we produce is enlarged. On the other hand, our neighbours do find their advantage in the facilities allowed by this Treaty to their fishing trade; but these they nearly as fully enjoyed before. Nor should it be forgotten that had we only proprietary capital applied, as it ought to be, to our fisheries, we could at any time set at naught their competition. The revenue of the last quarter of this year will be mainly derived from the duties paid on the importation of American goods. But for this treaty there would be little or none; for parties, for the sake of taking back our produce, are willing to pay duties on their articles of export; and no doubt this year a great deal of fish will find its way to the States in this manner; and it is not improbable that ultimately this course, which the trade in fish is likely to take, will supersede that carried on by the numerous fishing vessels now employed. No doubt the Treaty in which this originates was concluded between Her Majesty and the United States; but much of the detail of its practical working, many of the suggestions in which it originated, proceeded from the Liberal party in this Island; whilst the establishment of the same mercantile process, namely, the reciprocal interchange with our fellow Colonists, is exclusively of their negotiation.

We would call on the Liberal party not to suffer themselves to be deluded by arguments drawn, and as stupidly as ungenerously supplied, from the present financial state of the Colony. Were their enemies in office to-morrow, could they avert the consequences of the general stagnation of that credit which is the main-spring of commerce, and without which it has no existence. Unless they can show that the Liberals have, by operations in Europe, occasioned the nearly entire destruction of our timber trade and ship building how can they attribute the present state of things to them? Unless they can show that there has been an unreasonable expenditure out of proportion to the late very enlarged scale of business, of what is there to complain? Are the visitations of Providence, or the vicissitudes of trade in other countries, to be attributed to them? But the statements we will subjoin and the remarks we will annex to them shall speak for themselves.

It will never be overlooked that for a series of years the Government of this Island was but a carrying out of orders received from Downing-Street; and those orders were the result of an undue intercourse between Ministers and Proprietors, the latter not regarding or understanding Island interests, and blinded by a rapacious agency from all comprehension of their own. But lately for a time, and until now, that intercourse, by the introduction of liberal politics and liberal politicians, had been considerably abridged; but we regret to say that evidence is again afforded of the unconstitutional renewal of this baneful intercourse, carried on in opposition to the legal representations of Her Majesty's Representative. Things appear to be so managed by some interested clerks in the Colonial Office, that the statements of such a person as Mr. Leslie find currency in opposition to official documents; nor has it been infrequent of late that all the secrets of office have been known to proprietors before they have been transmitted to the constituted authorities. Every consideration, therefore, which can actuate man, calls on us to assist a Liberal Government, to defeat a system so replete with injustice and so prejudicial to the administration of Colonial affairs. No Liberal could desire to abridge the privilege which, in common with himself, every subject enjoys; but the security of all demands that all representations, not contained in official despatches, should be discredited till referred to the Lieut. Governor, or he had refused to forward them. Were any other the practice, how would it be possible for any Governor or Government to maintain itself against the secret intrigues of individuals or parties, causing all the measures of the Legislature to be restrained by a power unknown to the constitution,—a state of things which is brought about by the ready acceptance of all the falsehoods of the greedy agents of the Island, designed and used to perpetuate the bondage of the people for their own gains, and worked by a system of delusion towards the proprietors, regarding their own and the general interests.

The next subject for consideration, and which must be discussed in order to throw no light on the vain and discreditable delusions endeavoured to be practised by the Tories, is the actual state of the Island accounts. In order to do this, we take the accounts as reported by the Committee to the House of Assembly in its last sitting:

Dn.		Cr.	
To balance against the Colony, 31st Jan'y, 1857.	£22,803 14 0	By receipts at Treasury to 31st Jan'y, 1858.	£41,456 2 0
Expenditure during the year ended 31st Jan'y, 1858.	48,522 12 3	Due as above at Public Land Office.	15,002 1 1
	£71,326 6 3	Balance as above.	£14,868 3 3

From an account of the above nature, when used to show the actual affairs of the Island, it is just and right to deduct, not as a book matter, but as a matter of equity, £11,500, being the amount of old Treasury Notes in circulation, but not bearing interest, which are rather a public convenience than a public debt, which would leave the account as under:

Dn.		Cr.	
Balance brought down.	£14,868 3 3	Treasury Notes.	11,500 0 0
		Balance.	3,368 3 3
			£14,868 3 3

Such, however, was the spirit manifested by the Tory representatives and the Tory Auditors, as if they would have rejoiced if they could have shown any real defect on the part of the Colony. That the former made an ineffectual attempt to strike out of the first above account, or rather not to account for, the £15,002 1s. 1d. credited therein to the Colony, as proceeds remaining due in the Land Office books, payable at stipulated periods; whilst the latter, being called on to include that sum in their statement of assets, replied thus:—

"The Auditors, since making up the above statement, (which amounts only to £62,644 1s. 9d.) have been directed by the Lieut. Governor in Council to place to the credit of the Colony the amount of balances appearing in the books of the Commissioner of Public Lands. On attending at that office, the Auditors find the large portion of that balance unrepresented by any document, bonds, agreements or other securities, and do not think they should be credited by them as assets. The total amount of said balance is £15,002 1s. 1d."

Now had the Auditors acted as it appears to us that truth demanded, they, as well as the movers in the House of Assembly, could not have failed to see that the Act called the Land Purchase Act makes not only the land itself, but the chattels of the purchaser, liable for those balances, not only due but acknowledged anew every time a deed is executed or any payment endorsed upon it. Instead, then, of this £15,002 1s. 1d. being unrepresented, it is possibly better secured than any money lent on mortgage—the Act and the land being the security—the deeds themselves and the Commissioner's books being the account. But so far we have shewn the official debt of the Colony to be £14,868 3s. 3d., but the equitable or real debt to be only £3,368 3s. 3d. We are treating of realities as well as figures, and have therefore to present a further account, in which we shall take credit for the real property of the Island, not so far brought into account; but which forms an essential item when the assets of the Island are the subject of enquiry. It is as follows:—

Dn.		Cr.	
To balance.	£3,368 3 3	By 45,403 acres public Lands unsold.	£13,620 18 0
Balance by Land in debt due Colony.	12,826 19 8	By Crown Lands do.	1,874 5 0
		By balances due on Crown Lands sold.	1,000 0 0
	£16,195 3 0		£16,195 3 0

Which account leaves £12,826 19s. 8d. in favour of the Government—a larger sum than will ever be required to wind up the Worrell Estate. So that instead of the Colony being in the desperate condition represented by unprincipled demagogues, it may be safely maintained that there is no other Colony under Her Majesty's Crown which could apply to the Secretary of State to pass a Bill which became necessary to provide a guarantee for a loan in its favour, and exhibit such a favourable financial statement; and it does seem very strange that this most salutary measure should be now impeded, in spite of the acknowledgment by two successive Ministers of the propriety of the request made by the Island Legislature for the Imperial sanction of, and guarantee to a Loan, in order to put a stop to an injurious agitation, which for years has retarded the prosperity of the Island; and that the just expectations of the country, founded not only on Despatches received, but on the declarations made by Lord Stanley, in his place in Parliament, should be disappointed.

When the Liberal party came into power the Revenue was £22,806 9s. 11d. (in the year 1851). In 1858, that is, up to the last return, it had reached £41,456 2s. 11d.

It is alleged that the civil list has been increased. The increase is very small. It would be tedious, if not impossible, to go through all the Government expenses belonging to the civil list, &c.; but to shew the disinterestedness of the heads of departments, we give the following comparative returns:—

	1851	1858
Chief Justice.	£700 0 0	£600 0 0
Master of the Rolls.	500 0 0	500 0 0
Colonial Secretary & Registrar.	550 0 0	450 0 0
Treasurer.	485 0 0	300 0 0
Attorney General, with-fees.	200 0 0	350 0 0
		(without fees which is a large saving to the public.)
Excise.	260 0 0	300 0 0
Adjutant General.	75 0 0	25 0 0
		£2525 0 0
		Less. 345 0 0
		£2770 0 0

But notwithstanding, so far as the items quoted go, there is an apparent saving, such is not truly the case. There is a small excess, which is occasioned principally by the necessity of practised Assistants to remain in the various offices in case of a change of Government,—a practice every where prevailing, and incident to that form of government which gives the people power to change their ministers; but it is shewn above that the heads of departments have given up part of their salaries to meet this contingency. Greater expense has likewise been incurred to insure greater efficiency in the collection of the Revenue, and its increase shews the wisdom of the measure. The Post Office services have largely increased, which has occasioned an additional charge for salaries. But, on the whole, the increase very inadequately meets the requirements of the Colony; and no man in his senses can suppose that a revenue of £41,000 can be collected and disbursed at so low a charge as that of £23,000. Such a supposition may have place, if any where, in minds where candour and fairness have no place, and can only be promulgated by either party blindness or party malice; but no one, be he ever so blind or ever so malicious, can fail to observe, in all the public offices, a despatch of business, an impartiality in its detail, every thing having its due turn, with an intelligence and activity never equalled in those defunct times before the introduction of Responsible Government and liberal Administrators of public affairs.

THE FISHERY RESERVES.

Nothing could be more significant of the nature and extent of the influence which is brought to bear on the editorial management of the *Islander* than the conduct of that journal in reference to the Bill which was passed last Session on the subject of the Fishery Reserves. While it was passing through the Legislature scarcely a line was published in condemnation of its principles; at all events, no such lines as those we have recently read found a place, at that time, in the columns of our contemporary. But the Bill having been disallowed, and it being well known that the influence of the proprietary party has contributed to, if it has not entirely produced, that result, the criticism of the *Islander* on the Bill is fierce and furious—the indignation it feels against the Government for having introduced and passed such a measure, cannot find utterance in the ordinary modes of expression, but breaks out into coarse and vulgar terms such as few people, beside the editor of the *Islander*, would think of addressing to the public. It is evident that, before the Bill went to England, he did not expect much opposition from the proprietors to its allowance—hence his comparative silence; but now that he finds the faction incensed against the Bill, nothing can compass the measure of his violence against every one who was favourable to it. He designates it as a piece of "downright rascality," "a most infamous Act," "a swindling Bill," "an illegal and unconstitutional" measure. Of course, all this zeal, or fury, as we should call it, is simulated to please the proprietors, or is perhaps assumed at their dictation—for we know that the *Islander* has ever been, from the day of its birth to the present hour, directly under the control and influence of the proprietors—was ushered into the world by means of their contributions, and is still supported by their subscriptions. But suppose we shew that the principle—the essential principle of this very "swindling Bill," this "most infamous Act," this piece of "downright rascality," &c. &c., enjoyed the countenance and favour of the

editor of the *Islander*, at a former period of his public life, will the public give, or can they give, any attention to the savage denunciations which he now hurls against the Bill by order of his employers? Yes, we are prepared to show, and will show, that the principle which Mr. Maclean affects to view with such abhorrence in 1858 was the object of his most earnest advocacy in 1844.

Most of our readers are, no doubt, aware, that the object of the Bill, passed on the 1st April of the present year, entitled "An Act relating to the Fishery Reserves in this Island," was to prohibit proprietors from recovering rents for lands reserved to the Crown for the use of the fisheries. There is no denying the fact that such reserves were made to the Crown in the original grants of township lands. Did the Crown ever relinquish its right to these reserves in favour of the proprietors? No. If the Crown did not relinquish its right to the reserves, had it the power to transfer them with other imperial interests to this Colony, and did it surrender that right to the Colony? By the Civil List Bill of 1851 it transferred to the local Government all its territorial and local interests, including, of course, the Crown Fishery Reserves. It was therefore the duty of the local Government to assert its claim to the Crown Reserves, and to prohibit the proprietors from exacting rent for them. Hence the Bill of last Session. A similar Bill passed the House of Assembly in 1844, in conformity with a resolution introduced by Mr. Duncan Maclean, as we shall presently show. But before adducing our proof of Mr. Maclean's inconsistency, we shall briefly notice the opinions which he has deemed it his duty to express in 1858, in conformity with those of his employers. In the *Islander's* leader of the 26th Nov. the following remarks occur:—

"For electioneering purposes, the Snatcher Government assumed that the Crown Reserves were transferred to the Colony by the Civil List Bill, after they had definitely recapitulated, in the Legislature, the Crown Lands really acquired under that Act, to the total exclusion of the Fishery Reserves. The Crown had so long quietly acquiesced in the occupation of those Reserves by the grantees and their representatives, that it may be questioned if they do not now possess as irrevocable a title to that fringe of property as to any other part of their estates, and perhaps a better."

And in the same paper of the 16th December instant, the above opinion is reiterated as follows:—

"As we previously observed, the Proprietors have been so long in possession of the Reserves, it is questionable if they have not, by that means, obtained a title against the Crown; but be that as it may, it is certain that the decision of the Assembly in 1852 was conclusive, that the Colony had obtained no right to any part of the Reserves, in exchange for assuming the payment of the Civil List."

Now, nothing can be more absurdly false than the assertion that the House of Assembly in 1852 decided against the claim of the Government to the Crown Fishery Reserves, because they were not specified in the report drawn up by the House respecting the Town and Pasture Lots in Princetown and Georgetown, and the unsold lands on Lots 15 and 55. The object of that report was, not to define all the property ceded to the local Government by the Civil List Bill of 1851, but, to fix the upset price at which the latter description of property should be sold. But let the Editor of the *Islander* turn to the Assembly's Journal for 1851, and he will find that on the 12th May, a few days after the Civil List Bill became the law of the land, the House proclaimed, in the most distinct manner, the right of the Government to the control of the Fishery Reserves, as part of the Imperial interests surrendered on the passage of the Civil List Bill. In an address to His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman, in which all those interests are briefly recapitulated, the following paragraph occurs:—

"And with respect to other Lands heretofore vested in the Crown, commonly called the Fishery Reserves the House of Assembly further pray, that your Excellency will take such measures as will secure those lands from being hereafter usurped that they may become a source of profit to the Government and advantage to the inhabitants of this Island, for whose benefit they were reserved."—*Journal of the House of Assembly for 1851, p. 132.*

Will the *Islander* presume to assert, in the face of this extract, that the definitive recapitulation, by the Legislature, of the Crown Lands acquired by the Colony under the Civil List Bill excluded the Fishery Reserves? But let us turn to the Journal of the House for 1852, the year in which the *Islander* asserts that "the decision of the Assembly was conclusive that the Colony had obtained no right to any part of the Reserves, in exchange for assuming the payment of the Civil List." On Saturday, the 20th March, 1852, less than a month after the adoption of the report on the Crown Lands referred to by the *Islander*, the House of Assembly unanimously agreed to the following unmistakable address to the Lieut. Governor Sir A. Bannerman:—

"May it please your Excellency—The House of Assembly having under consideration the Fishery Reserves heretofore vested in the Crown, and transferred to the Government of this Island, deem it expedient that all persons should be warned from trespassing on the same. With that view, the House of Assembly request, that your Excellency will be pleased to issue a Proclamation, cautioning the public from trespassing on, or creating the said Fishery Reserves, or in any way occupying the same, without licence from the Government of this Island."—*Journal of the House of Assembly for 1852, p. 124.*

Now, we think the above extract very satisfactorily demolishes Maclean's barefaced assumption, that, by a proceeding of the Legislature, the Government had waived its right to the control of the Reserves. It will not do for the *Islander* to quote one part of the Journals, which may seem to serve its purpose, and pass over others which are much more to the point at issue. We happen to be quite well acquainted with the contents of the Journals as Mr. Maclean, and we assure him that he will gain nothing by his quotations from that source.

But we shall go a little further back than 1851 or 1852, before a Civil List Bill was thought of, and we shall bring to the bar of Public Opinion, to prove our case on this question, a witness whom the editor of the *Islander* ought to respect and believe.

By reference to the Journal and Debates of the Assembly for 1844, we find that the question of the Fishery Reserves was discussed at great length in the Session of that year, and terminated in the House passing a Bill, which was precisely the same in principle as the Bill which was sent to the Colonial Office this year, at the disallowance of which Maclean is so overwhelmed with joy, and so savage with the Government for having brought forward such a measure. The object of the Bill of 1844, as we before stated, and as every intelligent man in Prince Edward Island knows, was to prohibit proprietors from exacting rents for the Fishery Reserves in the Crown. This Bill was drawn up in conformity with the repeated representations of the Assembly, two instances of which we have already quoted, and based upon the opinion given by the Crown Law Officers of England in 1844—namely, that the Crown alone had the exclusive right to the Reserves

referred to. The Bill of 1844 had the same object in view, and was introduced and passed under the light which was shed upon the subject by the then Attorney and Solicitor General of England. But what is most remarkable in "this strange eventful history" is the fact, that Mr. Duncan Maclean—the present violent opponent of this measure—the man who professes to be shocked at the audacity of the Government for daring to claim the Reserves—who thinks that the Crown or the Government has waived its right to them through the agency of the local Legislature, and asserts that the proprietors "possess an irrevocable title" to what he modestly styles "that fringe of property!"—it is remarkable, we say, that Duncan Maclean was the foremost man in 1844 in asserting and re-asserting, that the proprietors had not the shadow of a claim to the Reserves—that their pretensions were fraudulent—that their usurpation of the Reserves was a monstrous "swindle," and that the tenantry ought to be protected by Act of Parliament from paying rent for them! In 1844 Mr. Maclean was a member of the Assembly—he had commenced his parliamentary career two years before, and was bidding high for popularity as a grievance-monger in general, and as an implacable enemy to the proprietors in particular. On the 8th March, 1844, in the debate on the Fishery Reserves, he submitted a resolution which was made the groundwork of the Bill that subsequently passed, and which will be found, agreed to by a large majority, in the Journal for that year, p. 70. His speech, in submitting it, is reported in *Hazard's Royal Gazette*, March 26, and is as follows:—

"Mr. D. MACLEAN had repeatedly heard statements, tending to shew that the present Chief Justice invariably charged the jury in favour of the proprietors. Any one has a right to dispose of his own property, but the proprietors had sold that of others as their own. SUCH CONDUCT IN OTHERS WOULD BE CALLED SWINDLING; and no milder term ought to be applied to this. As there seemed to be great difference of opinion in the House, he would beg leave to introduce a resolution:—

"Resolved, That certain lands in this Colony, originally reserved for the use of the fisheries in this Island, having been declared by the Attorney and Solicitor General of England to be the property of the Crown, having been claimed and in many cases leased and sold by the proprietors of the Townships on which such are situated, it is right and proper that the settlers on said lands should be protected by Legislative enactment in the quiet possession thereof, (without any further rent being exacted by the Proprietors of the Townships on which such reserves are; but at the same time not interfering with any right the Crown may enjoy to exact rent for such reserves), until the land be required for the use of the Fisheries."

And in the course of the same debate we find it reported that—

"Mr. D. MACLEAN persisted in the right of the House to determine, that the tenant should not in future pay any rent."

These extracts will do our work without comment. To Mr. Maclean we leave the pleasant task of reconciling the views expressed by him in 1844 with those which he has found it his duty to announce in 1858. According to his opinion, and that of a large majority of the Assembly, in 1844, the proprietors were guilty of "a most infamous act" in taking rents for the Fishery Reserves. But now, in 1858, when the Government sought to stop such "infamous acts," they only are the "swindlers," while the proprietors are, by contrast we presume, the most upright and well disposed men in the world! Well, 'tis a world of change we live in, and we think there are few people in this or any other country who can beat Mr. Duncan Maclean in his experience of the transitory nature of things political. We hope the proprietors will not behave shamefully, but will reward by a handsome douceur in this merry Christmas season the new-born zeal in their behalf of their ancient enemy.

We have already extended these remarks to a greater length than we at first proposed to ourselves, but we have a few words more to say. The editor of the *Islander* informs us that he has "resided for eighteen years in the Townships without being aware of any discontent or excitement about the Reserves." If we are to believe him, we must believe also that he has slept the greater part of the eighteen years, or seldom stirred beyond his barn yard, for we know of no question that has been more constantly and perseveringly agitated, next to Escheat, than that of the Fishery Reserves. It is discussed almost every Session in the House of Assembly, and it has been a prevailing topic at hundreds of public meetings. But we will bring forward the testimony of the *Islander* itself to prove that the unsettled state of this question has produced much discontent and excitement in the country. In a leading article in that paper of the date June 7, 1844, the following passage occurs:—"The minds of the people, which 'have long, in a manner, been phrenzied with hopes and fears relative to these reserves, require to be settled; the general good of the Colony demands it; and, by an effect of the wisdom of our Legislature, we yet confidently hope to see it completely achieved, and to the satisfaction of all parties concerned." Now, will the editor of the *Islander* believe the *Islander* with regard to this part of his statement?

THE MAILS.

The first Winter Mail for the season arrived here via Capes Tormentine and Traverse on Wednesday evening last. Another Mail from Halifax, by way of Pictou and Georgetown, was received on Thursday last; and again on Saturday last we had another Mail by the usual winter route. Little or no news of any importance has been furnished by these arrivals.

We have just learned (Monday 4 p. m.), that the English Mail crosses from Cape Tormentine to-day, and may be expected here to-night. We shall delay going to press in order to publish any important intelligence that may be received.

We regret to learn that the vessels which were cut out of the ice in this harbour during the past week have been prevented from prosecuting their voyage by the ice in the Strait. Some of them have returned to the mouth of the harbour, and others are ice-bound in the neighbourhood of Point Prim.

EASTERN TEACHER'S INSTITUTE.—On Saturday evening, the 4th instant, a meeting of the above Institute took place at Eglinton School-room, Bay Fortune. After the transaction of the business of the Institute, an interesting and instructive Lecture "On China," was delivered by Mr. Alex. McDonald, Teacher.

The Lecturer displayed intimate acquaintance with the history of that singular nation. From the careful comparison of the customs and institutions of the Chinese with those of Europeans, he inferred that the former were a wiser people than the latter, and in a more civilized state than is generally admitted. In the course of the discussion which ensued, these inferences were ably rebutted by Rev. H. Crawford and others. The discussion throughout was conducted with much ability and interest, both by the Lecturer and other speakers. The next meeting of this Institute will take place at St. Margaret's School-room, on Saturday, the 8th January, 1859, at 4 p. m. A Lecture on Physiology will be delivered by Mr. W. C. McKie, Teacher, at 7 p. m., which the public are respectfully solicited to attend. JOHN CAMPBELL, C. S. Bay Fortune, December 7, 1858.